

Joshua Dyer House
North Pamet Road
Truro
Barnstable County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-700

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JOSHUA DYER HOUSE

HABS No. MA-700

Location: North Pamet Road.
Truro, Barnstable County, Massachusetts.

Present Owner: Mrs. Arthur Williams.
North Pamet Road.
Truro, Massachusetts.

Present Occupant: Mrs. Arthur Williams.

Present Use: Summer residence:

Significance: This Greek Revival house of early to mid-nineteenth century is located where the Old King's Highway turned north. It is typical of the houses built in the general area at that time, and is located within the area of the proposed Cape Cod National Seashore.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Original and subsequent owners Mrs. Ruth Dyer, Truro Librarian, and local historian of this Pamet area, said that this house was originally built by a Snow, and that a Snow was living there in 1812. She thought the house was then like the Harding-Lloyd house, located farther east on North Pamet Road. Mary Freeman Dyer was born there in 1853 or 1854, and later married Joseph Atwood. Mary told Mrs. Dyer that her father tore the house down and rebuilt it with part of the same lumber, in the 1860's. Mrs. Dyer said that the same carpenter built the Ephriam Hill house on Depot Road in Truro, according to Mary Dyer Atwood. Present owner purchased property from Dr. and Mrs. Chapman in 1952.

Date of erection Early to mid 19th century. The house has been remodeled from its appearance, however the construction exposed on the second floor is typical of the early 19th century houses found in the area. There is a question here concerning the validity of the story that the house was torn down and rebuilt in the 1860's, although it is possible that this is true, and that the early type of construction was followed in the rebuilding.

Architect Unknown.

Builder Unknown.

Original plans None known to exist.

Alterations and additions Interior of the house has been changed, a bath and bed room were added; an addition was added to the west of the original house; the east window of the south room was originally an exterior door.

Historical events connected with the structure. None have been uncovered, although it is reputedly the former home of a sheriff named Atwood. This house could have been a stage stop since it was on Pamet Road and Old King's Highway. Further investigation is necessary to determine this.

Important old views Present owner has some old photos of the property and a lithograph by local artist, Edward A. Wilson, who resides on South Pamet Road.

Sources of information Present owner; Mrs. Ruth Dyer, North Pamet Road, Truro, Mass.

Likely sources not yet investigated The Town Records of Truro could be checked regarding former owners and information pertaining to the property. Also, the Barnstable County records could be looked at, however, the Court House fire of 1827 destroyed many of the Register of Deeds books prior to this date.

Prepared by Charles E. Dyer
Charles E. Dyer, Architect

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

GENERAL STATEMENT

Architectural interest and merit This is a 1 1/2 story Greek Revival house located within the area of the proposed Cape Cod National Seashore.

Condition of fabric Good.

THE EXTERIOR

Overall dimensions Approximately 20 x 40 feet.

Foundations Brick.

Wall construction Exposed walls in east room, second floor, show exterior sheathing boards, 12" to 15" wide, laid horizontally on vertical 4 x 4 studs at 3'-0" on center. 4 x 8 girts or top plate rests on the studs. The interior walls of lath and plaster are laid on the interior faces of the studs, apparently. The exterior of the house is shingled.

Porches, stoops Small brick stoop at the front door.

Chimneys Central chimney over the center of the house. A new chimney of brick construction was added to the east side of the house.

Openings - doorways and doors. Front entrance has been rebuilt, and a 6 panel door has been placed there.

Windows and shutters 6/6 lights in wood double hung sash.

Roof - shape covering Gable, pitched roof, shingled.

cornice, eaves Wood, box cornice; narrow eaves.

dormers None.

Floor plans The interior has been remodeled since the house was originally built. Today, the room back of the front east room which may have been the original kitchen is now converted to a bed room and a bath room. A modern kitchen is in an addition to the west of the original kitchen. The east room now has a pine east wall with a new fireplace, and the other room on the first floor is a small west front room. There is one bed room on the second floor, with the remainder of this floor unfinished.

Stairways One by the front door, 12 risers, run is about 7'-0".

Flooring Random width pine boards, 9" to 12" wide, apparently butt joints.

Wall and ceiling finish Plastered and papered walls on the first floor and part of second floor, in the finished bed room. There is no wainscoting, and some of the trim has been replaced in the house. East wall of east front room, as noted above, has had modern fireplace and pine wall installed.

Hardware Some modern, but there are some apparently original hinges and door latches.

Lighting Electric.

Heating Hot air ducts, oil furnace. New fireplace east wall, front room.

SITE

Orientation The house faces south close to the road, north side. The tract includes 5 acres. House sets on a hill with a good view of the surrounding countryside.

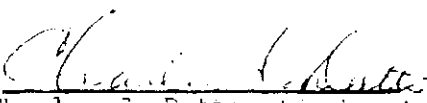
Enclosures None.

Outbuildings Frame barn, owner believes is dated 1826; later garage. These are about 30 yards east of the house.

Walks, driveways Gravel drive from road to parking spot east of house by the garage.

Landscaping Shrubs, flowers, trees, very neat and well trimmed.

Prepared by


Charles E. Dotts, Architect
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